

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR ROBINSON: ...we've got about 40 trucks going and we'd better off with one of George Coordsen's gravel roads I think probably instead of the roads we've got now.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, if...in terms of, I assume it's a diesel truck, that the base tax rate is obviously, the reason you got more dollars from them is that they travel more miles and they generate substantial amounts of tax.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. President and members, again I rise in support of the amendment and I do so because it clearly, and I appreciate everyone's comments who spoke so far whether in support or opposition or in a neutral capacity as Senator Robinson did I believe on the measure. But the...Senator Wehrbein, I'm glad you said that because really what we're talking about is a \$25 million, using Senator Kristensen's numbers, tax increase that is built into the budget. That's what it is, it's 25 million bucks that we are going to raise gas taxes in the next biennium and we're going to do that based on the 20-year road plan that was established back in 1988, 1989, and we're going to do that without going back and looking at that plan and modifying it for the most part. And I think that's one of the things that ought to be addressed. Maybe that was in the Appropriations Committee and I'll listen to see if it was addressed because that is something that I think is critical. It is extremely critical to that process because what is happening is we're going to continue to see these kinds of things where the excise tax at the state level goes up while more than likely, you can almost count on it, the federal dollars are going to dwindle and that I think means that we then have to go back and look again at that 20-year plan. The other issue that I think is raised by this amendment and that ought to be addressed is that you have a 23-cent excise tax right now. Do you know how much of that is a fixed rate? Twelve cents, just about half, a little over half. With the adoption of this portion of the budget, when this becomes law, if it does, if we don't adopt my amendment to take it out, what you're going to have is you're going to have over 50 percent, you're going to